WASHINGTON CRITIC

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943 D street, Washington, D. C.

LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST. For the District of Columbia, Delaware and Maryland, warmer; fair weather contherly winds.

WASHINGTON, PERRUARY 23, 1890.

HONESTY IN TAXATION is the best

policy. PAIR ASSESSMENT and honest col-

lection. JUST TAXATION would stop the infla tion of land values.

What we need in Washington is an assessors' trust that will put up the prices on rich men's property.

ARE THERE any small land-owners among the citizens of Washington who receive immunity from taxation? Certainly not!

THEY THROW Corporal Tanner out of the Pension Bureau, but his famous phrase, "God help the surplus," is still

The Vice-President of the United States, Hon, Levi P. Morton, paid tax on \$107,620 worth of property which could be sold at \$450,000.

EDITOR CRITIC: What does "tf" mean at the end of an advertisement in a newspaper? It means tax fraud, dear,

THE ASSESSORS estimated the value of the Wormley Hotel property at \$79,-230. It sold recently for \$140,000, and is now on the market at \$200,000.

WHY SHOULD the District of Columbia have more than \$100,000,000 of real estate value that is not taxed?

Because it is making the rich richer. ONCE MORE THE CRITIC would like to inquire If Senator Ingalls has heard any complaints about the unjust tax assessments in the District of Columbia.

WHY DOES MR. WILLARD fence in his estate and hold it against all bidbers? Because the trifling tax he contrives to have put upon it enables him

EVERY PIECE OF real estate undervalued and held for speculation causes injury to the city. Besides depriving the District treasury of its just dues, it hinders enterprise and deters building.

CUT THE FOLLOWING out and paste it in your hat: Owing to the influence of the wealthy property-holders the District of Columbia is annually chested out of the tax on more than \$100,000,000.

TO THE WEALTHY land-owners: If you are sincerely concerned in the welfare of Washington insist on paying tion. You will be surprised at the benefits yourselves and the community will derive.

PERHAPS WHEN THE 10,000 Knights of Labor in the District of Columbia concentrate their efforts and let go one mighty vell in favor of reform of the tax assessments, Senator Ingalls will awake to the fact that there really is: some complaining in Washington about

'INVESTORS WILL NOT buy at exorbitant rates. The big land-owner, who pays the smallest proportion of the pubc taxes, is exorbitant. He is a speculator. In making the present purchase of his land impossible by the figures he waits to realize he prevents improvement. Just taxation, in re-establishing healthy values, would accelerate investment, and thus increase the demand for labor. Building would be more general and extensive, more workmen would find employment and the public prosperity would be augmented.

MR. WARNER'S LETTER.

A re-perusal of Mr. Warner's letter, published in Friday's Chirre, produces the impression that his views on the subject under consideration are somewhat confused, and that he is not very clear ve n in regard to his own queen dectrine of public expediency.

He is wrong in asserting that the Chitic "assumes" anything in regard to the inequality and injustice of the District assessments. On the contrary, it published a statement of facts from which the only logical inference was, and is, that an outrageous discrimination has been made in the matter of assessments against the poorer and more numerous class of tax-payers, as a class, and in favor of the rich property owners. What other inference can Mr. Warner draw?

The testimony of some of the assess sors certainly is to the effect that "prominent citizens were parties to securing unfair assessments of their property to escape debts justly due from them under the law," If Mr. Warner by the phrase, "debts due under the law," means taxes, "to escape the payment" of these was precisely the object for which "prominent citizens secured unfair assessments." What other object does Mr. Warner think they had?

If rich property owners "profited by favoritism" in their assessments, is not the conclusion inevitable that the class not so favored "must bear proportionately heavier burdens" in order to make up the full amount of a fixed tax levy, or as Mr. Warner puts it, "for the benefit of the public at large?" What other conclusion can Mr. Warner reach?

It is curious to note that Mr. Warner makes no explicit denial of the state of things complained of, but says he

other words. Mr. Warner would perpetuate injustice and continue the per petration of fraud upon the people rather than that "the impression should be ereated that the administration of our local affairs has been very defective, or that there exists such a condition of things as should at once receive investigation from Congress," Indeed, Mr. Warner would apparently carry his expediency so far that he would suppress the fact "that palpable wrongs have been committed under cover of

law" rather than ruffle the sensibility of the august "chairman of the Senate committee," who, in the face of a de tailed statement of injustice and fraud, 'does not see the necessity of immediate action." Mr. Warner's expediency is, rawever, a very one-sided one. It is always for the rich and favored tax-

the people; it is for the suppression of gitation and not for the redress of It is wholly beside the matter for Mr.

Warner to say that other efties in the country are more unfairly assessed than | cency, that it will, Washington. The present contention s about Washington, and in view of the law and the facts in the case that contention is that the system of assessment which prevails is unfair and fraud-

In like manner the fact that "prominent and influential citizens" are "enterprising," etc., has nothing to do in the way of excusing their course in sccuring unjust and illegal assessments, So it is also in regard to Mr. Warner's view of the beneficial effect of taxation upon the taxpayer. It is an interesting

theory and it may be a true one, but Mr. Warner, surely, cannot find in it any ustification of a system which makes the burden of taxation fall lightly on the rich and heavily on the poor.

The fact is Mr. Warner is out of character in attempting to apologize for a system which has been condemned as infquitous by successive assessors and District Commissioners. It would be more in keeping with his reputation for public spirit, if he should aid with his influence the agitation for

a new law, which is inevitable, For it is not to be thought for a moment that these unjust assessments are to continue. Already the people are taking the matter up, and, when they have gained full information, they wiil demand their rights, and then

favoritism must go. GREAT RAILWAY SCHEME. When the Pan-American Congress. convened for the purpose of establishing closer trade relations between the United States and the countries of Central and South America, began its sessions in this city, it was suggested that a subsi-

dized ficet, sailing to South American ports, would not accomplish half so much to create or promote reciprocal trade between the Three Americas as the building of a continuous continental railroad. Yesterday the Committee on Railroads reported to the Congress

a plan, looking toward the construction of such a road. What is proposed is a railroad system that shall connect all the countries and

the chief cities of North, Central and South America, existing lines, of course, to be utilized where possible. By means of such a system speedy communication will be established between all parts of the Western world, fast hand in my pocket an' try to fool myself dispatched and the promp

delivery of quick freights will make multiplied purchases and the interchange of commodities easy and con-The plan of the International com mittee provides for the appointment of a Commission of Engineers, each coun-

try having a delegate in the Congress to be represented by three of them. This mixed commission, when appointed, will meet in this city to determine the best routes, their respective cost and their special advantages. As soon as the feasibility of the enterprise has been demonstrated and one route has been agreed upon, proposals for construction are to be invited, and, with the consent of the respective governments, the work of building will

The Three Americas' Congress has been regarded in several quarters as being to a great extent a sentimental conference, capable of no practical suggestion and likely to lead to no substantial result. But if it should be the means of successfully launching so great and comprehensive an enterprise as this Continuous Continental Railroad scheme seems to be, the estimate at which the Congress has been held

in many minds will be greatly changed. If this meeting of the representatives of all the American republics should succeed in agreeing upon a common silver coinage, receivable and interchangeable everywhere on the American continent; should reach a good understanding in regard to banking and direct exchange, and should take the first steps leading to the construction of a great connecting railroad by which the Three-Americas would have fast mails, quick freights and speedy intercommunication, it would do much more than create sentiments of mutual appreciation, friendship and good will-it would supply practical methods for the increase of commerce and produce conditions most favorable to the growth of a trade which might prove of benefit to far separated

Whether the injustice and unwisdom of our tariff will frustrate all the wise conclusions and all the sagacious projects which the Congress may form cannot now be fully known, but even if they should, it is right to give the great Conference credit for full information, clear views, practical suggestions and genuine zeal for the general good of all the American nations.

Now THAT THE Woman's Suffrage Convention has adjourned and the esteemed delegates have resumed their regular ways of life, the free and independent voters of this glorious land will once more begin taking off their boots on the front doorsteps and devoting their remaining energies o getting into the house without making

Phoresson Kinnain, the eminent select tist, is said to be so badly broken down in 'holds the opinion' that it is inexpe- | health that he must go to the Hot Springs. dient to disclose it, because such a dis: | The Professor has not been really well since | closure may injure the city in the | he endured the exposures incident to those |

noise enough to wake anybody.

estimation of Congress and others. In scientific studies which he pursued in Mississippi some time ago, when Professor Sullivan went with nim and showed him where all the stars and comets are.

Is one or mrs lectures before the law class of Columbian University Justice Haran remarked that, Owing to vacancles on the Supreme beach, the important legal difficulties connected with the liquor traffic had not yet been seted upon, but said he, The whisky question will be decided as oon as the court is full."

IF THERE EVER was my doubt as to the real superiority of Indiana it is dispelled by the knowledge that one Hoosier woman has been nine times a bride and eight times divorced. As she is only 40 years old there's plenty of time for her to improve her pres-

GENERAL WOLSELEY is criticised for ertain magazine articles in which he discussed the English Army. He is accused of having infringed on military regulapayer and never, even by accident, for tions. He certainly never "infringed" on the enemy.

THERE IS A CHANCE that the noted and otorious Flack divorce case may be settled and disappear from public view. It is to be hoped, in the name of common de-

THE FRENCH SEVATE Is determined on protecting officials from libel. Doubtless that distinguished body believes that the greater the truth the greater the libel.

JUDGING FROM THE confident smiles and winks at the three beadquarters, last night, the World's Fair will go to Chicago and New York and Washington. THE AMERICAN FLAG was not floated

ver the City Postoffice yesterday. This is another reason why we should have a new Postofflee building.

MRS, BOGGS AND MR, WARNER, Gineri Greely's cold wave got along at last an' me au' the old woman found it comfortable to sit close to the fire last even in', she a-toein' out a sock an' me a-readin' of THE CRITIC.

Bimeby my eye lit on a paragraph in Mr. B. H. Warner's letter 'bout the tax assess. ment troubles, an' I read it out to the old "I said to your reporter that the picturing

of frauds, either of a public or private character, was, in my opinion, damaging to our city." "There," says I, "them's my sentiments. If that 'tarnal CRITIC keeps on exposing

the fact that the poor people have to pay most o' the taxes here in the District whill the big, rich men git off pretty near scot free, it'll do our city no end 'o mischief." "But ain't it true, Jason?" says the old weman. "Don't the poor folks have to pay a sight more in proportion than the rich

"Wnal," says I, "what if it is true? It's nothing to be proud of, an' we don't want It blowed all over the country, "Why not?" says she, jest like a woman.

folks dogs

Women never can see through things like the men.

"Want," says I, "s'posin' our parson sh'd it up in the pulpit an begin tellin' what tarnal sinners the members o' our church are! Wouldn't you say he'd better a good deal be tellin' what sinners the members of other churches are 'stend o' exposin' the faults of his own ?"

"No, I wouldn't," says she, sort o' reddenin' up. "S'posin' he sh'd p'int his finger at Dea

con Dobeon an' say: 'Deacon, you're the man that's a stealin' Brother Biggins's wood. I seen you at it last night!" "Then," says the contrary old woman, "I sh'd say that was the sort o' preachin' that's

likely to bring about reform." Jest then Doc. Whitcomb come in an' we left the question to him.

"Wasl," says the Doc, "I don't know much about preachin', but if I had a frog felon on my thumb I wouldn't stick my lance it. Maybe it'd hurt a little to cut into it, but it'd cure the felon; an' that's

what I believe in doin'." I wasn't just sure what the Doc meant y that figure o' speech, but it 'peared like sort o' pleased the old woman con-

After the Doc. had gone we got to goin'

at it again. "I tell you," says I. "Worshington can" ford to have it git out to the world that she's wicked. It'd spile business here." "As to that, I don't know," says she but it 'pears to me Noo York an' Chicago has got along pretty tol'able well, an' they ain't got reppytations for being any too

"But who'd come to Worshington to buy real estate if it sh'd git out that the poo folks have to pay about all the taxes?"

"W'y the rich folks, of course," says she an' it sort o' seemed to me that mebby I'd better not say much more in that direction While I was a-lookin' into the fire, won lerin' what tack I'd take next, the old woman hitched up in her chair and put her knittin' in her lap, sayin', carnest like:

"Jason Boggs, you ain't got hold o either the moral end nor the business end o' this question, an' the quicker you ac knowledge it the better you'll feel. If there is something unfair about the way the taxes in this Deestrict is assessed, an' if the poor folks is payin' more an' the rich folks less than their share it is unfairthen the best thing to do is to tell the truth right out about it an' have the thing cor rected. That's the only way to git rid of injustice. You can go around in a mealymouthed sort o' way till the cows come home an' it won't do a bit o' good, but the way to stop a fraud of any kind is to take off your gloves and attack jest like you wasn't afeerd of anything. You admit, an' so does Mr. Warner, that there's been some thin' unfair and unjust about the way the taxes is assessed here. You admit, an' so does Mr. Warner, that this has been goin' on year after year while the papers was a-keepin' still about it (mebby some of 'em had a good reason of their own for keeplu You admit that until The CRITIC still). exposed this fraud there wasn't no Ekeli hood of the injustice being stopped. Now, Jason Boggs, you needn't sit there an' tell me that THE CHITIC is doing our city any injury by lettin' daylight onto this wicked ness. I tell you THE CRITIC has done more in a week to stop these evil practices than people that go about on tiptoe trying to keep the facts from the world would do in your hull nateral lifetimes. Pretty soon, when the merchants of Washington begin to see that or dinary people are goin' outside of the Deestrict to buy land an' build their homes, an' that the unfairness o' the taxes here is simoly buildin' up a lot o' suburbs instead o cepin' folks in Worshington, you'll agree with 'em that there ain't a point in the bull controversy that don't prove that THE CRITIC is doing the very best thing not only in a moral way, but in a business way, for

the city o' Worshington." I never seen the old woman roused right up like this before. She les seemed to be talkin' like she knowed what she was talkin' about, an' somehow it made me feel o sort o' uneasy like that I never said another word, but just sot back an' thought the thing all over. I dunno, after all, but the old woman is more 'n half right, Leastwise, I sin't goin' to try to argy the case with her any more till I've had a talk with Mr. Warner and got some better argyments than any o' them I've heard yit.

JASON BOGGS.

CAPITOL TIPS.

The air of settled melancholy which pervaded every corner of the Senate chamber for the past two weeks suddenly disappeared Thursday, and Senators who have not sat in the chamber after 3 o'clock for many days were again in their scats.

Sepator Blair was directly responsible for Sciator Blair was directly responsible for the departed gloominess. He brought it in with him on the 5th inst. It was packed up tightly in a bundle of papers which contained his speech on his pet Education bill. The instant he opened these papers to begin his speech, the gloom rolled out of them like the snowe from the funnel of a locomotive. It overspread the galleries and almost instantly they were deserted. By degrees it filled the chamber until it pervaded every inch of it. Of those on the floor the Schators were the first to be "Read the bill over again." This sentence is repeated probably more often by Senator Ingalis than by any other man to the Scoate. It is not a lack of attention that causes the Senator from Kansas to make this exclamation, but rather a desire to thoroughly understand a bill, which the first reading does not make quite clear.

four the Senators were the first to be affected by it; then the pages and attaches came under its influence, and during the days that Senator Blair spoke on the bill the chamber represented a deserted theatre with the Senator as an actor re-

earsing his part. The Senator always begins his speech pr isely at 2 o'clock. During the first day of a was listened to with attention. The secon ay's speech caused many of the Senators of leave the chamber. On the third day nore left when he commenced, and on the burth, and during the ether days of his peech, only a few of the most patient constors remained during its delivery.

The address was too much for even staid The address was too much for even staid

old Senator Evarts. Senators Sherman and Chandler were often so deeply affected by it as to cause them to hurriedly leave the chamber. Senator Hampton listened to the speech with patience for several days, but finally he, too, followed his associates out of the chamber. It was one of the funniest sights imagi nable to see the exodus from the chamb the lustant Senator Blair commenced his speech. One Senator after another left his seat and stepped softly until outside. The

speech. One Senator after another left his seat and stepped softly until outside. The reporters deserted their gallery in a body, and no matter how crowded the visitors' galleries were they, too, were soon deserted. The Senator evidently noticed the startling impression his speech was making, for he cut it so that he was able to finish it two days sooner than he had expected to at first.

The address was one of the longest eve elivered. It took the Senator fifteen day delivered. It took the Senator fifteen days to go through it, and those days were the most trying that some of the Senators had ever experienced. Mr. Blair, however, seemed to be in his element while speaking, and when he concluded he sat down with an air of satisfaction, and the listening Senators looked unutterable thanks at him for not continuing his speech through the en-tire session, as many expected he would, judging from the pile of manuscript and notes he kept continually on the dask be-

With the last word of the Senator's speech disappeared the melancholy that had come with it, and now more than half a dozen Senators can be seen in the chamber after 2 o'clock.

A weary looking old man haunted the orridors about the Senate all day Friday. When the adjournment was taken, he but ton-holed a Northern Senator who seemed to know him, and after a few minutes con versation the latter drew forth a bill and ome sliver from his pocket and handed the greenback to the old man. The latter took enator's hand. "There is only ninety-five cents there,

says the Senator noticing the old magaze. "I have given you all the money had but this, and I need at least this much o buy some lunch and to pay my fare back The old man looked at the \$10 bill which

ad been given him, and then back at the flyer in the Senator's hand, and said: "But I need all the money I can get."

He got the silver and the Senator went without his lunch and walked back to his

She pointed to the base that had been rected as the pedestal of a statue on the green porthwest of the Capitol until the gaze of half a dozen of her female companons became riveted upon it. Then, with a majestic wave of her hand, which caused people coming down the Capitol steps to stop and gaze at her, she said: "That little tower"—the base is about fifteen feet high— "is where they pump wind into the base-ment of the Capitol for the poor men who

A dozen people who overheard her ex-planation snickered, and a bad young man it would not be a bad idea for some of the stlent Congressmen and Senators to make occasional visits to the basement in order that they might inflate their lungs with nough wind to make their voices heard at east once during a session.

Congressman Frank Lawler of Chicago tells a good story about himself, which will bear repetition. He rushed into the lobby on Friday, his face beaming with pleasure and a large bundle of letters in his hand. The first man he met was THE CRITIC re-

"Well, I've got them pulled at last," he said, between breaths, "Yes, I've been twenty years having it done, and now it is

He was asked to explain himself.
"Don't you know about it? I thought
everybody know it. Teeth, I mean, teeth. I have been trying to get them pulled since the Chicago fire in 1871. When I first made the attempt in Chicago the dentist's tweezers were on one of my back teeth when the fire broke out, and he abandoned the job. The fire, together with the fright the dentist gave me, cured me for awhile, but the achee returned, and after the fire I went to another dentist. I sat back in the chair, but the Poctor looked sick. In fact I rebut the Doctor looked sick. In fact I remarked it to him. He said, 'Yes, I do feel a trifle unwell, you had better postpone the job until to-morrow.' That mght the dentist died. This gave me another scare and my teeth didn't pain me again for fully a year. When they did begin to jump I proceeded to another deutist. This time I managed to have one pulled, and postponed having the others pulled until the next day. On the following day the deutist—had sold out his establishment—on the quiet and left town. I let the job go until I came to Wash-ington the first time and stepped into an office and had a new dentist begin on me again. After tugging away at a back tooth for a while he concluded that a larger pair of pincers was necessary, and he left my tabling jaw in that condition until he found larger pair of from

of pincers was necessary, and he left my aching jaw in that condition until he found a larger pair of irons. I said: "You are new in business, are you not?"
"Well, rather," he answered, 'I worked in the Public Printing Office, but found that it didn't pay and went into the dentistry business." "I left that fellow in short order, and started in the last time with a first-class depties and now everything is all right," and with a pleasant laugh the brainy Con-

gressman and the poor man's friend hur-ried on to tell somebody clse of his good One of the familiar figures in the lobbies is a tall, nice-looking young gentleman, with blue, good-natured-looking eyes and a drooping brown mustache. He wears a black derby hat and a dark chinchilla overblack derby hat and a dark chinchilla overcoat, always thrown open. Many people
have been attracted lately to this pleasantlooking gentleman and have asked who he
is. His name is Thomas Sullivan, and he
is Congressman John Henry McCarthy's
private secretary. "Tom" is one of the
most popular young men on the East Side
of New York City.

If Senator Spooner only knew what a narrow escape he had from being pounced on by half a dozen members of a New York labor delegation the other day be would have probably got Into the Senate chamber faster than he did at the time. The Senator bears a strong resemblance to Lewis Post, a New York lawyer, who was a prominent supporter of Henry George and the labor party. If he were to walk through the streets of New York he would probably meet dozens of people who would mistake him for Post. His hair is of the same color and is worn in the same style as the latter's and both wear about the same

style of clothing.

When the members of the labor delega-tion, who had been in the city for several days in the interest of a labor bill and were very low in pocket, and Spooner just about to enter the Senate, one of them mistook him for Post, and a consultation was immediately held as to who should strike him for the needed cash. All were sure Spooner was Post, and just

as the one who had been delegated to negotiate the loan started to approach Spooner, the latter entered the Senata chamber. The single committeeman attempted to follow him, and it was only after considerable persuasion that the door-keeper who stopped him massaged to convince him and his companions who had gathered around that Spooner was not Post. Spooner had a narrow escape. artment, with sal raveling expenses.

guished agriculturalists

Columbia was promoted on Monday from

Senator Ingalls is one of the most attentive men in the Senate. Nothing escapes him. Although seemingly deeply interested in the perusal of some weighty document while an important measure is being read, he is on his feet the instant the debate begins, and his argument, whether in favor or eagust the measure, as the case he Surgeon-General. News has been received here of the death at Detroit of Mr. D. V. Bell, one of the best-known officials of the Treasury. Mr. Bell was for many years Collector of Cus-toms at Detroit. He was a frequent and always welcome visitor here. favor or against the measure, as the case

favor or against the measure, as the case may be, generally shows that he is fully aware of what is going on.

Scuator logalis sets as straight in his chair as a school boy. His back is straight up and down. There are no curves there, and while it would inconvenience one very much to assume the upright position that he does, whether walking or sitting, this position seems as natural to him as stooping does to a bookworm. The Scuator is always one of the first to take his seat in the chamber. Immediately after the Senthe chamber. Immediately after the Senate convenes he commences to go through the immense stack of documents that litter his desk every morning. This work done, he offers whatever bills he is interested in, ations and the practice of law in New England. and then sets down ready to object or as-sent to the other bills that are presented. No one ever saw the gentleman from Kansas smile, but this does not say that he is devoid of humor. The Senator enjoys a joke in his own quiet way, and everybody

PONDEROUS THOUGHTS.

I don't want any more letters sent here with the line at the bottom "Please correct spelling." I can't be studying the dictionary all the time.

A spiritualistic paper in Chicago is edited by a gentleman long deceased. If subscribers don't pay up he appears to them.

A correspondent asks us: "Would you say 'It was he whom I lent it to,' or 'It was him whom I lent it to." I would not. I would say. "I lent it to him."

How the women scared the Senate! Beck declares "The de'll is in it. Senators ain't free a minute from the petticoated bores,' And they surged around the portals, jostling those imposing mortals, pledging them in silken barracks just outside the Senate doors. There they blarneyed them and jawed them; there they lectured them and lawed them; there they blandly overawed them and explained to them the plan of the new Sixteenth Amendment, whose beginning and whose end meant to arm every dame and daughter with a ballot like a man. Susic Antique Anthony took her argument to Bella Hooker, and old Mamie Walker shook her fist at Manderson and Jones, while the plaintive Lucy Blackwell, who can lead to the attack well, made the Ball of Justice totter with the thunder of her tones. Mrs. Colby said; "We'll stand eil the derisive jibes of Randall; why, the game ain worth the candle; let the opposition slide;" and Olympia, Laura, Julia, Phoebe, Lillie and Cerulia, Mrs. Johns and Mrs. Wallace, in a fearful chorus, cried: "Walt till our petition mingles with the eloquence of Ingalls, till his voice shall raise the shingles, and our wail of wild despair shall move Sherman, Evarts, Morrill, Edmunds to espouse our quarrel and-- (Here the foreman waves his arms and says we must go to press, and seizes the copy in the midlle of the sentence. But I have said enough

to indicate how the toad hops this month.] Evolution has overtaken the Connecticut hen. Everywhere is found support for name of Darwin has been linked, and now the Yankee hen has come forward to add her silent testimony. It is a Danbury fowl. She has ceased to lay eggs of the tiresome ovoid pattern, and begun to produce an egg with a hollow stem at one end, resembling an Irishman's clay pipe that has been used about three years. Clipping off the upper end of this marvelous egg, we have a perfect pipe-bowl, of the usual size, from the bottom of which extends a stem turning at a right angle, about the size of a pipe-stem and an inch and a half long, Three have already been produced, and there is no scientific reason why the beautiful variation should not become permanent, if the feathered architect is properly encouraged. It is well known that the called freaks of nature can be perpetuated by careful selection and interpreeding-

like Wallace's family of six-toed cats. Now if Danbury can establish a new breed of Meerschaum fowls, every female of which can be relied on to turn out one good, strong, elegant pipe every day, with a stem to it, it will assume a first importsuce among manufacturing towns, Hatting will become subordinate to the pipe trade. Montgomery Bailey can knock off run for the Legislature, and "make of life a joyous holiday." An extra ration of lime and sillcifled dough every morning would toughen the shells, and the pattern and texture could be further improved by modifying the diet.

The pipes could be beautifully decorated by feeding their parent on creosote, yellow ochre and carmine. A pipe illuminated with fantastic and gorgeous devices would immediately command a premium in the market, for many valuable young men. who now spend their evenings conferring a delicate tinge upon their meerschaums, would be released for the benefit of quilting parties. By interbreeding fowls that produce eggs with the longest stems, stems of any length can ultimately tained, and there is no doubt that an egg could be at last reached, having a long flexible stem, a lid opening with hinges and a hook to hang it up by. There is no end to possibilities here. The stem could be grown solid and looped up on the side producing a dainty porcelain cup of the Sevres variety. A hen that would produce two dozen elegant and delicate china cups every month, with a monogram or portrait on the side, would be a treasure. It is not necessary to follow up the hint. The meerschaum hen is the ben of the future, and Congress might well make a reasonabl appropriation for the encouragement of

SWORDS THAT ROOST. Chickens, like two-edged swords, con

LIFE. If life were but what lying tongues have

said-Basely asserting kindred with the clay In soul and body; boasting of a day o bring us nothingness when life has fled-Yet with the dreams of hope that fondly

shed A glory and a halo round our way, Then even then, twere better far to stay In sad existence, than to slumber, dead, f life were such! But round us and within A loud denial says eternally,

> And from our mortal, lumortality. -Arthur L. Salmon.

DEPARTMENT NEWS.

On Friday the Secretary of the Treasury appointed Mr. J. L. Dawson of Pennsylvania as an inspector of the Treasury De-partment, with salary of 84 a day and

Sceretary of the Interior Noble delivered an address at the banquet given in Detroit on Friday night by the Michigan Club. This association is a rival of the cele-brated Farmers' Club of Pennsylvania and has among its members Senators Mc-Millan and Stockbridge and other distin-Miss F. M. Hepburn of the District of

\$900 to \$1,000 per annum in the office of the chief of the Signal Service.

John J. Bell of Georgia has been appointed to a \$1,000 clerkship in the office of

Mr. Thaddeus R. Simonton of Maine was appointed on Friday by Secretary Windom as a special agent of the Treasury Department, with salary of \$6 per dlem. He will orobably be located in some one of the New England States. Mr. Simonton is about £6 years old, but looks much younger. He is of robust frame, and has had many years' experience in customs business, having been deputy collector in Maire. Up to the time of his appointment have a strikely engaged in real estate ones.

The Commissioner of Pensions last week promoted George P. Meyer of New York and John F. Castow of Pennsylvania from \$1,200 to \$1,400 per annum. Joseph B. Wilson of Texas has received

au appointment to a \$900 clerkship in the gual Bureau. The Secretary of the Treasury has appointed Mr. Augustus S. Bryan of Pennsylvania to a \$1,200 clerkship in his de-

The proposition of the District Commissioners to tax boarding-houses has no horrors for Washington laudladies, but is a nightmare for the boarders. One landlady, who keeps a boarding-house where many bepartment clerks reside, has intimated that she will increase her prices when the new order goes into effect. This means an advance of not less than \$5 s head per month. Of course there will be no necessity for such action, but the landladies of Washington are not manually left when Washington are not unusually left when there is a chance to increase their receipts. The friends of genial Sam McDonald of Ohio will be glad to welcome him back in Uncle Sam's service. He has just received an appointment to a clerkship of the sec-ond class in the Treasury.

The resignation of William S. Ballard of New York, a clerk of the \$1,200 grade in the War Department, has been accepted.

S. J. Kubel of the District of Columbia was appointed a few days ago to the post-tion of chief engraver in the Geological Survey, salary \$2,400.

The recent death of Mr. Wyeth Denby of Kentucky, a well and highly regarded clerk in the Navy Department, has opened the way for the following promotions: D. C. Morrison of Michigan, from \$1,400 to \$1,600, in the Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting; E. A. Roderick of Pennsylvania, from \$1,200 to \$1,400 in the same bureau, and Miss M. D. Routh of New York from \$1,000 to \$1,200 in the Secretary's office Mr. James L. McGlone of Virginia has

received an appointment to a \$900 clerkship in the Bureau of the Geological Survey. Private secretaries are very useful and necessary adjuncts in public offices where there is a large amount of business. It is part of their duties to open letters not personal and thereby relieve principal officers sonal and thereby renewe principal onneers of much drudgery. A private secretary should not, however, abuse his position by using it to pay off personal scores. Friends of a capable clerk in one of the Government offices have been endeavoring for some time past to bring his merit to the attention of the proper person in his Department and without avail. Gentlemen who have deligated by the children of the proper person in his Department and without avail. have addressed letters to the chief are in-dignant that no notice has been taken of them and friendships of years standing are the beautiful hypothesis with which the endangered in consequence. It has been discovered that for some reason the private secretary in this case has conceived a dis-like for the clerk, and the papers have been quietly filed without having been brought to the attention of the chief. We have reason to believe that there are many in-stances of this character in the Depart-ments, and it would seem that a reform is in order. In the particular case referred to we hope the young man, who, in other respects, is an efficient secretary, will take the hint herein contained and rise above

rsonal spite, otherwise he may have On the recommendation of the Commissioner of the General Land Office the Secretary of the Treasury has appointed Mr. Charles W. Davis of Nebraska au examiner

of land claims, with salary of \$2,000 per Major C. C. Sniffen of New York, who has been assigned temporarily to discharge the duties of Paymaster-General, is very well-known here. He was formerly a clerk in the Treasury, and was detailed to the White House during President Grant's Administration. His ability and unvarying courtesy made for him many friends, and his ppointment as paymaster in the Army as strongly recommended. President trant, who held Sniffen in high esteem, command the desired in as paymaster just before the close of his second term. As is usual in the case of new officers, Major Sniffen was given a post on the confines of civilization translated at the case of the confines of civilization translated at the same paymatheness. mediately after his appointment. Grad usliy he has moved northward and his las official station was in his native State. He is a man of great force of character and is very methodical, a valuable trait in one who has the handling of large sums of money, especially when it belongs to the Government. Those who know him best predict that he will make the most efficient head the Paymaster's Department has had C. M. Gilbert, of New York, and E. B. Simonds, of Virginia, have been promoted

in the Interior Department; the first named from \$1,200 to \$1,400, and the last named om \$1,000 to \$1,200. After a satisfactory probationary term of six months J. P. Jackson, of Kentucky, has received an absolute appointment to a \$900 clerkship in the office of the Secretary of the Treasury.

Treasurer Huston has promoted W. R Russell, of Kansas, from \$1,400 to \$1,800 quite a boost, but a well earned one. H. N. Gassaway of New York, one of the reterans of the the public service, was proted from \$1,400 to \$1,600 in the office of he Sixth Auditor of the Treasury a few

The Secretary of War last week advanced Mr. N. H. Stevens of Maryland, a clerk in his Department, from \$1,200 to \$1,400 pe On the recommendation of the Commis doner of Internal Revenue, Mr. T. H. Sy-

pherd of Virginia has been promoted from \$900 to \$1,200.

On Wednesday Hon. Richard C. McCor

mick visited the Treasury Department, of

which he was formerly Assistant Secretary.

The reception given to him by the employes of all grades must have been very gratify ing to bim. During his official term he was very popular and solely because he was canaderate and square in his dealings with the clerks. Probably no head of a Department ever had more disagreeable duties to perform, among others the dismissal of nearly six hundred persons at one time, owing to the failure of Congress to pass appropriation bills, but such was the confi-

owing to the failure of Congress to pass appropriation bills, but such was the confidence placed in him as an impartial man that none of the sufferers found fault with him. There are gentlemen in prominent positions in all the Departments who would do well if they followed Governor McCormick's example in the matter of courtlesy. It is proper to say that the official who now fills the position which McCormick held, Hon. George S. Batcheller, is a man of the same mould in every Life is a pilgrimage by which we win Strength in the present; future victory; Hadness from sorrow, purity from slo, er, is a man of the same me

dence of the regard entertained for him by the thousands of employes over whom he

A number of communications have been

received from clerks in the Departments

concerning a class which needs suppression very badly. It is composed of men and women whose chief delight seems to be found in the circulation of rumors, more or less vile and untruthful, affecting those with whom they are employed, but who will not socially affiliate with them. Perwill not socially affiliate with them. Perfectly impocent acts or remarks of ladies are twisted to suit the intent of these people. Sometimes the religious belief, or want of it, of the selected victim is the point of attack. Again, it is the political views, real or imaginary, that is charged against a man or woman, and that, too, by those whose views are always in exact accord with whichever political party may be in power. But by far the most contemptible method of attack is in insinuations affecting the of attack is in insinuations affecting the character of modest women, whose neces-sities compel them to labor for a livelihood. A few days ago a gentleman employed in one of the Departments, in walking to bus office overtook a relined lady employed in the the same bureau. He happened to have in his hand a small bunch of violets. and, as they walked along, he presented them to her. A woman belonging to the same office saw them together, and, by the time she finished her description of the incident, any one would suppose she was witness of an assigna-tion. To be either a lady or gentleman seems an unpardonable offense the eyes of the class referred to, whose xistence is the cause of the unfavorable pinion entertained by those unfamiliar with the character of the greater portion of

the employes of the Government. It would be an excellent move on the part of the heads of Departments to discharge the gos-sips, male and female. All of the executive departments were closed yesterday to enable the clerks to honor the memory of Washington. This they did by attending the theatres, and other places of amusement, as has been the practice here for many years.

ARMY NEWS.

The proclamation of Secretary Proctor granting amnesty to deserters is in the ludge Advocate-General's Office, where the legal aspects of the subject are being con sidered. A report from the Fort Leavenworth Military Prison shows that of the 550 prisoners at that institution 423 are serving time for describen. The Secretary has not yet decided to what date amnesty will be extended. It is not improbable that all deserters prior to December 31, 1889, will be pardoned.

During the month of March three chap lains will be retired from active service Rev. J. A. M. Latourette, who was ap pointed in 1865, and is at present on leave at Hot Springs, Ark., retires on March 23. Rev. S. G. Dodd, who is on duty in Montana, re-tires the following day. Rev. David Wil-son, who is well known in this city, retires March 30. This will make three vacancies, for which there are a large number of appli-cations on file at the War Department.

The opinion prevails at the War Department, that Colonel Rodney Smith will be appointed Paymaster-General. Such a se lection by the President would be re earded with satisfaction by the Army and with something like resignation by the other worthy candidates. The Secretary of War realizes that the appointment of Major Carey would invite criticism, with suggestions of nepotism even if that officer's claims are sustained even if that officer's claims are sustained by the longest service record. Colonel Terrell's chances are not promising. The appointment of his brother to a diplomatic position probably discharges a certain amount of duty the President owes that branch of his family. Secretary Proctor, too, is credited with reserving his influ-ence for Dr. Baxter, who will probably succeed the Surgeon-General of the Army on the retirement of General Moore.

The fact that the bill providing for an Assistant Secretary of War will receive the signature of the President, has furnished material for speculation at the War Department regarding the probable occupant of the office. The salary is \$4,500 per year, and the bill provides that it shall be a civilian appointment made by the President. Mr. F. C. Partude, Secretary Procter's private secretary, and Mr. John Tweedale, chief clerk of the Department, are among the parter suggested for the new office. names suggested for the new office.

ADMIRAL KIMBERLY ARRIVES. Rear Admiral L. A. Kimberly is at the Ebbitt House. He has had a long talk with Secretary Tracy regarding the duty to which he will be assigned. He was invited to ex press a preference for duty, but declined, as he did some weeks ago, when Commo dore Brown was ordered to command th Pacific Station. It is likely that he will be ordered, to succeed Admiral Jouett, on the board of inspection. Admiral Kimberly has always had an objection to indicating his desires for duty, and his novel position was made the subject of a long letter to Commodore Walker, then chief of the Bureau of Navigation, who wrote to him after the Samoan disaster regarding an assignment at home. Admiral Kimberly assignment at home. Admiral Kimberly lives in Boston, and there has been some talk of his succeeding Commodore McCann as commandant of the Boston Navy-Yard. Three of Admiral Kimberly's associates on the Pacific Station have been assigned duty. Lieutenant R. M. G. Brown, whose novel tacties of filling the rigging with men, cleared the Trenton of a reof and with men, cleared the Trenton of a reef and saved 450 lives, is on duty in the Judge Ad-vocate-General's Office at the Department Lieutenant H. O. Rittenhouse, who was Kimberly's flag lieutenant at Apla, will go on duty at the Naval Academy as head of the department of drawing. Lieutenant the department of drawing. Lieutenant G. A. Merrwan, who was Kimberly's secretary on the Pacific Station, is also on duty at Annapolis.

WHERE TO HOLD IT. "Has Congress yet decided where it w old the World's Fair 9"

"Yes." "Where ?"

"No: where ?"

'ifteenth streets every day."

"In abeyance." MARY ANDERSON IN TOWN. "Have you seen Mary and her son?"

IT MUST BEAR GOOD FRUIT. Editor Critic: Your good work in oppos ing the fraudulent practice of the late Board of Assessors must eventually bear

"Selling papers at the corner of F and

the fruit it deserves. The duty of a government is to take care of all its citizens, and there should be no discrimination made, or if made, then it ought to be in the interest of the weaker or

ought to be in the interest of the weater or poorer member of society.

When any part of the Government, and particularly that part of it that has the power of assessing the land values or property values of a State, county or municipality, wilfully discriminates in its valuation in favor of land speculators or large owners of real estate, to the detriment of the poor man, there is every reason to be the poor man, there is every reason to be-lieve that there is in his act some sordid Now, it is but fair to suppose that no man will be dishonest in his official posi-

tion unless he receives some consideration for so acting, and an investigation into the matter will, I have no doubt, so prove. The action of the different labor organi cations will. I have no doubt, bring some investigation into the matter by the District Committee of the House, and you will receive the thanks of the public for or action in the matter. Washington, February 22.

NICE LITTLE BOY.

Nice Young Superintendent-Now, chil iren, I am much obliged to you for being so still and good while I have been address ing you. Is there any nice little boy who would like to ask me any questions? That little boy in the infant class seems anxious o say something. What is it, my fine little

particular, and the inquiries made concerning him during his recent illness is an evilous you goin' to shoot off yer mouth?

NAVAL AFFAIRS.

The contract for the construction of gun boats five and six has been formally awarded to the Bath Iron Works of Bath, Me. The Moore Company of Elizabeth, N. J., did not enter a protest at Secretary Tracy's action in this award, as was juti mated in a local paper. It was the natural legal course. On the day following the opening of bids for the gun boats and the practice vessels, the Moore people telegraphed the Navy Department that they wished to withdraw the bids. The request was preferred on the ground that they did not recesses the requisite plant and were was preferred on the ground that they did not possess the requisite plant and were unable to accept the requirements of the contract regarding three months' preparation. Later a letter was received asking that the telegraphic request be disregarded and that a contract be given the company for the construction of one of the gun beats. The Judge Advocate-General decided that the contract could not be divided up in this manner and that the award of the contracts for the three vessels must be made to the Moore Company, or the bids rejected. The company selected the latter alternative. They are preparing a plant at Elizabeth and a board of inspection has reported that they will soon be able to accept the usual terms of contract. The opinion of naval constructors is that in permitting the Moore people to withdraw their bids the Secretary saved that company a considerable amount of money.

able amount of money. During the coming week the Secretary will advertise for proposals for the 5,300ton cruiser and the steel practice-vessel, for which latter the Moore Company was the only bidder. Modifications in the fittings of the practice-vessel will be made so as to make it possible to construct a ship within the appropriation. circular regarding the so-called 7,500-ton circular regarding the so-called 1,500-ton crulser will be issued this week. It has been decided to construct this vessel after the type of the English cruiser Blake. A delay was caused by the intention of asking Congress for additional appropriation necessary in the construction of a larger vessel than was authorized. The vessel will not be as large as the Blake, but will be increased from the 7,500 tons displacement specified in the law to 8,150 tons. The plans contemplate a vessel 380 feet in plans contemplate a vessel 880 feet in length, 60 feet beam and 23 feet draught. The horse-power of the engines is placed at 15,500, while the speed required will be twenty knots. The vessel will be known as armored cruiser No. 2.

The report of the semi-annual standing of Naval Cadets shows one deficiency case in the first class, six in the second class, five in the third class and nine in the fourth class. The deficiency cases are as follows: First class-F. S. Rising, Nevada. Second class-Archibald Anton, New York, resigned; W. W. Beck, Maryland; F. L. Eaton, Michigan; E. D. Ryan, New York; W. T. Saunders, at large; Edward Tuckle, Illinois. Third class-John Carlett, Virginia, resigned; Leonerd Goodwin, Pennsylvania, resigned; J. C. Kilbourne, Ohio, resigned; R. B. Larkin, Virginia, resigned; Randolph Ridgely, Georgia, resigned. Fourth class-C. A. Andrews, Iowa, rerouth class—C. A. Andrews, lows, resigned; J. R. Berryman, Ohio, resigned; R. A. French, Florida, resigned; Gordon Hood, Alabama, resigned; J. R. Johnson, North Carolina, resigned; C. A. Lane, Missouri, resigned; S. G. Latta, Tennessco, resigned; C. F. Neill, Texas, resigned; Edgar Richmond, California, resigned

It is never too early to discuss the chances of the commission to the Navy of Naval Cadets. There are at present seven vacancies in the line, three in the Marine Corps and one in the Engineer Corps. There will be in June at least thirteen vacancies, not jucluding probable casualties, which will bring the number of vacancles awaiting the cadets to that of last year—twenty-four. The two vacancies which will occur by June 30 in the Marine Corps will be caused by the resignations of Lieutenants Carroll Mercer and C. H. Lauchheimer. Both of these officers are on leave at present. Lieutenant Lauchheimer's resignation takes effect May

 He will engage in the wholesale cloth-ing business in Baltimore. Lieutenant Mercer's resignation takes effect June 30. Some idea of the popularity of Washing-ton among naval officers as a place of residence may be gained by a glance at the retired list. Among the number who have completed their active service and made homes in this city are one vice admiral, twepty-six rear admirals, three commo dores, one captain, two commanders, four lieutenant-commanders, one lieutenant, one lieutenant of the junior grade, two ensigns, four medical directors, one medical inspector, five pay directors, one pay in spector, three paymasters, one assistant paymaster, three chief engineers, two passed assistant engineers, two professors passed assistant engineers, three naval constructors, of mathematics, three naval constructors, and two one civil engineer, two boatswains and two gunners. Among retired officers of the Marine Corps there are on the retired list

one major, one captain and one first lieu-tenant who live in this city. Ensign Hugh Rodman of the Hydrographic Office has been sent to Newfoundland, with headquarters at St. Johns, to study the ice movements in the North Atlantic. The Hydrographic Office has been studying since 1882 the movements of toe with a view to predicting the probable drift of ice each month. Each vessel encountering ice has been in the habit of reporting the circumstance to the office and a monthly publication, edited by Lieutenant H. M. Witzel of the Navy, appears with a record of the extent, position and direction of the ice. From the reports received this year it is shown that there is an unusally early and heavy movement of fee eastward and westward of Newfoundland. During January, over a month earlier than any date hitherto recorded as a time for ice move ments, there were received eighty seven reports of encounters with bergs and ice fields. So far this month there has been sixty-one reports of such experiences. This condition of affairs has never been known to exist before and has rendered difficult the work of religible proprises. The Madeoraphic Of

fore and has rendered difficult the work of reliable prophecy. The Hydrographic Of-fice has issued a form of report to be used by masters of vessels in their returns re-garding ice. The reports received this acason exhibit a large extent of fee-fields, interspersed with bergs, which are from ten-and fifteen feet to 600 and 700 feet in height. The bergs vary in length from a few feet to half a mile, and the ize-fields are reported to be in area from small are reported to be in area from small patches of one mile to masses of 100 miles. The City of Exeter, a British steamer, skirted an ice-field for 174 miles last week off the banks of Newfoundland.
The reports sent in oftentimes detall exciting experiences. One vessel was confined for four days
among treacherous field ice, that momentarily threatened to demolish the ship. The previsions gave out and the possibilities of starvation were added to the probability of destruction. Another vessel was impris-oned for thirty-six hours in an ice-field, and there are many instances reported of ves-sels having the copper torn off and minor damages sustained. The present week's sels having the copper torn off and minor damages sustained. The present week's reports are less in number. Not because less ice has been encountered, but because vessels are coming further south to avoid the experiences of the last month. Last week the reports show that ice was seen by one vessel "in large patches of about two miles in width;" another vessel "skirted the eastern edge of a dangerous ice-field containing many berge, 8 to 20 feet high, and impossible to detect at night;" another "was in the ice on the Grand Banks for six days;" the LaGascogne passed several bergs, one the LaGascogne passed several bergs, one 130 feet high by 3,300 feet long. It is to study these movements that Ensign Rod-man has been ordered to Newfoundland.

He will have the co-operation of the whal-ing fleets, who will make Arctic observa-tions. Ensign Rodman left on the 18th instant. JUST, AND WHAT IS NEEDED! Editor Critic; Permit me to offer my congratulations to you for your courage in attacking the present grossly unjust and flegal assessment in the District of Col da. Your expose is true, just and exactly what is needed.

If the new management of THE CRITIC ontinues in its present aggressive course t will soon become the leading Washington paper. Yours very truly,
ARTHUR S. BROWSE,

February 22.